



# 3 Day Journey

My journey to be the man, husband, father, and leader God created me to be.

S U N D A Y , J A N U

## ➔ Take the Land

One of the joys of our nightly routine at our house is the reading of selected Bible stories with my 5 year old son from a reading plan in his Bible. As we were reading through the Old Testament, I found myself, as most times I have read or heard these stories, dumbfounded at how silly and not so smart the Israelites were as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land. Over and over again, God would take care of them and then they would lose faith and wish they were slaves again in Egypt. How could they be so blind? How could they be so foolish? Why would they want to trade freedom for bondage and the promise of life for almost certain death? What were they thinking?

Then one day as I was reading one of these passages in Numbers 14, my heart sank. For the first time in my life, I wasn't reading about the Israelites anymore, I was reading about myself. In this passage, the Israelites were rebelling after they received the report from the 12 spies who had gone into the land God had promised them. Joshua and Caleb were trying to convince the people to take the land, but the others were stirring up trouble by saying it was not possible to do so. The people said, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?...We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt" (verses 2b-4).

To be open and honest with you, my faith is waning right now. Times are tough and I am struggling to keep it together. As I read those verses, the very words that I had recently been thinking to myself appeared on that page. "If only we had stayed in Colorado Springs, or in Houston. Why is the Lord bringing me into this situation only to let me fail and not accomplish my goals. My wife and children will lose faith in me. Wouldn't it be better to go back to where I was comfortable? I should look for a way to get back to where I was."

Even though the Israelites were miserable in Egypt and the desert, they longed for it because they were blinded by their fear of what lied ahead, even though they had been assured by God that He would give them the land. For so long, I have mocked their ignorance only to find myself longing for the past that seems so much easier than what lies ahead. The past was not any easier, I just know what to expect because I have been there. The future is still unknown and from where I stand right

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now, looking very challenging and I am not sure how I will make it to where I am going without a lot of discomfort. I hope and pray that I will not make the same mistake the Israelites made. Father, please give me the wisdom and courage to take the land!

Posted by Kennedy at [8:52 PM](#)

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W E D N E S D A Y , J

## The Breakthrough

Just recently I came face to face with something that I believe has been a barrier to me moving to the next level in this journey I am attempting to document. Fear. I mentioned fear in my last post as well, so there seems to be a common thread here. This is an important recognition, or breakthrough, because I believe a lot of my life has been dominated by this, and I did not even realize it. Many decisions have been influenced by it, my confidence in myself has been hindered by it, and even the joy of my blessed life has been squelched by it. All why going unrecognized. I have spent countless hours thinking and pondering over what could be preventing me from getting over the hump of mediocrity and into the realm of impact and significance. Never recognizing fear as the culprit.

So, what am I afraid of? I've actually never considered myself a fearful person, but actually bold in most areas of my life. However, this fear is specifically targeted to keep me living a mediocre life. It's the fear of pain. The fear of what sacrifices will be required of me to be all God created me to be. I cannot move forward while staying the same. Something has to change. What security blankets will I have to let go of? It's probably not going to be fair, and being tired is no longer a justification to do nothing. Being tired is an excuse to be mediocre.

Although I have memorized the verse Joshua 1:9 in my past, it never really had the meaning it does today. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Be strong and courageous. Courage has been lacking from my life. Courage is not necessarily being fearless. I heard courage described once as the guys that are afraid, but go anyway. I was getting afraid, and then not moving forward. Be strong and courageous. It may be scary, it may be difficult, but go anyway.

I know tough times are ahead for us. These next few years, I will be moving myself and my family into some uncharted territory. I will be asking myself to reach higher and farther than I ever have before. I will be asking myself to lead courageously even when it hurts and even when I'm tired. I have to persevere like no other time in my life to this point. Things have to change in me. Be strong and courageous. Don't keep doing the same comfortable things and expecting different results. It's not going to happen.

Be strong and courageous!

Posted by Kennedy at [6:00 AM](#)

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M O N D A Y , J U L Y

## ➔ The Demand of Perfection

In October of 2005 my beloved Houston Astros made it to the World Series for what I believe was the first time in club history. Throughout the World Series and even the two previous playoff series the Astros played, I was hanging on every pitch. Even the announcers were quick to point out that every pitch mattered and one mistake could mean the game and potentially the series. As you probably know, the Astros did not get their first ever championship, but were swept by the White Sox. Although, I was very disappointed the 'Stros did not win, I was relieved that the stress of perfection, even though not demanded of me, was over. I actually began to sleep better at night.

Oddly enough, I feel that demand for perfection every day. It's probably self-imposed, but it seems as if my whole future and even the future of those who are in this journey with me, may be impacted positively or negatively by every decision that I make. There does not seem to be any margin for error. This is a tough burden to carry, not to mention impossible to achieve. I cannot be perfect, but yet I feel the need to be. Why is this?

After evaluating this in my life, I have come to the conclusion that I strive for perfection out of fear of disappointing others or entering into a conflict with someone. My perception was that if I was perfect, then I would never ruffle any feathers, and I would always be in favor with everyone I came in contact with. Is this a true perception? Well...I don't believe so. There was only one person to ever walk the face of the earth and be perfect. What did that get Him? It got Him tortured and hung on a cross. So much for avoiding conflict.

It seems that my striving for perfection is not only impossible, but useless. Even if I could be perfect, I would probably find myself in the midst of the very conflict I am trying to avoid. Striving for excellence is one thing that can be achieved, but not perfection. After reflecting upon what perfection costs, I'm not sure I want to be perfect.

So what now? Strive for excellence and face conflict head on and for what it is. It's never quite as bad as you make it out to be. Conflict comes whether you deserve it or not, and you can't avoid it. You just have to learn to deal with it.

Posted by Kennedy at [11:00 AM](#)

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S U N D A Y , M A R C

## ➔ Perseverance

It was a year ago this week that I was beginning a 12 day adventure that would change the course of my life as I knew it. I began that trip heading in one direction with a plan and came home facing in another direction without a plan, and that was not by choice. It was terrifying yet liberating at the same time. God was moving. I knew it, but what I did not know is that He was moving me into the land of Perseverance. Something I had somehow managed to avoid up until this point in my life. Having to deal with sticking through something, even when it did not always make sense, and committing your heart to a calling despite how tough it may get was not something I had been good at up to this point. I recognized this a being important in my marriage, but not in my career or pursuit to be who God created me to be.

So here I am, knowing that this is my time to persevere when everything in me wants to head for the hills and get away from it all. It seems every weakness that I have is beign exposed. However, I know that nothing short of perseverance will get me to where I am headed. I have to face it. I cannot turn the other way. I must cling to the exhortation in James 1:2-4, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **Peseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**"

Being mature and complete is what I need to be successful as a man, husband, father, and leader. There is no other way. I must persevere, but I cannot do it alone. I need the strength of my Savior along with the encouragement of my family and friends.

Posted by Kennedy at [8:08 PM](#)

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